

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] A method of treating onychomycosis by disinfecting human nails. This method includes the steps of:

Directing the UV light source and associated UV transmissive cover that extends from the first end of the system at the area of the body to be disinfected;

Sensing that the unit is held by an adult hand;

Turning the light source on to emit UV radiation in the 254nm range directed at the area to be disinfected.

[Claim 2] The method of claim i further includes the step of turning the light source off at a predetermined time after the light source is turned on.

[Claim 3] A hand-held UV germicidal system comprising:

A UV light source;

A UV transmissive cover that fits over the light source;

A reflective cover to direct the UV light;

Power means for supplying power to the light source; and

A case that contains the power means and connects to the UV transmissive protective cover.

[Claim 4] The system of claim iii further including a safety sensor that prevents the unit from being turned on until an adult hand properly holds it.

[Claim 5] The system of claim iv further including a timing circuit that turns the light source off a predetermined time after the sensor turns the light source on.

[Claim 6] The system of claim iii wherein the power means includes a battery power supply and an associated ballast circuitry.

